

36. STERNA DOUGALLI [?] *.

Specimens from M. Blanc, among them a beautiful adult male, perfectly white, with the exception of the black head and faint roseate tinge on the underparts. Both the Roseate and the Common Tern are plentiful in summer in the south of the Regency, and particularly on the island of Djerba, which is a favourite breeding-haunt of the Terns.

37. HYDROCHELIDON NIGRA.

Obtained last year, but omitted in my list.

VIII.—*Note on Anas erythrophthalma, Wied.*

By T. SALVADORI, C.M.Z.S.

ONE of the most obscure species among the Ducks is *Anas erythrophthalma*, Wied (Beitr. iv. p. 929), described from Villa de Belmonte, in Southern Brazil.

Of the two birds collected by Wied, the female was in good condition, but the male had the wings imperfect, having lost the quills. These two specimens, like the rest of Prince Max of Wied's collection, are now in the American Museum of Natural History in New York. They were examined many years ago by Mr. Salvin, who thought that perhaps they were to be referred to *Metopiana peposaca* (Ibis, 1874, p. 319). The same opinion was expressed two years later by Selater and Salvin in their excellent "Revision of the Neotropical Anatidæ" (P. Z. S. 1876, p. 399, note). But more recently, in 1889, Mr. Allen, in a paper on Wied's types (Bull. Am. Mus. N. H. ii. p. 269), has quite emphatically expressed the opinion that *A. erythrophthalma* is a very different bird from *Metopiana peposaca*.

This was the state of things when I undertook the preparation of the Catalogue of the Ducks in the British Museum. Naturally I made a point to settle the question.

Very soon I found that Dr. Hartlaub in 1844 (Verz. Ges. Mus. p. 119) had mentioned a specimen in the Bremen

* [We leave this as written, but Mr. Aplin, to whom Saunders has written on the subject, states that the only grey Tern he observed was *Sterna anglica*.—EDD.]

Museum under the name of *Anas erythroptthalma*. Having asked Dr. Hartlaub to give me some information about that specimen, he replied that unfortunately the specimen, in some unaccountable way, had disappeared from the Bremen Museum. Upon this I wrote to Mr. Allen on the subject; he kindly sent me a photograph of the two types, but this was not sufficient to enable me to make up my mind on the subject, and, as he most positively insisted on the bird being different from *M. peposaca*, I suggested to him to compare the specimens with the figure of *Fuligula nationi*, Sclat. & Salv. (P. Z. S. 1878, p. 477, pl. xxxii.), from Lima; and the reply was that he really thought they were one and the same species.

Most strangely, while I was studying the types of *Fuligula nationi*, I had found that they were very similar to specimens of *Nyroca brunnea*, Eyton, from South Africa; the resemblance was so great that there was scarcely any tangible difference, and Mr. Salvin suggested to me that they should be put together.

Wishing as far as possible to solve the difficult problem, I proposed to Mr. Allen to send the types of *Anas erythroptthalma* to London in order to make a direct comparison. This he kindly did, but the specimens arrived after my departure from London. Mr. Salvin, to whom the birds were addressed, having made the necessary comparison, wrote to me as follows:—

“The types of *Anas erythroptthalma*, Wied, are in old worn and faded plumage; the wings of the male are imperfect, the quills lost, and the speculum not visible on any of the remaining feathers.” (This was the state in which Wied described the male bird.) “The most nearly allied species are *Nyroca brunnea*, Eyton, and *Nyroca nationi*, and from these the male hardly differs in plumage, inclining rather to *N. brunnea* in colour than to *N. nationi*. The sides of the head and upper neck are rather lighter and redder, but this may be due to fading. The bill and legs are now of a pale yellowish brown; in both *N. brunnea* and *N. nationi* they are quite dark. In size the bill agrees very nearly with *N. brunnea*, but is perhaps slightly higher at the base.

“The female agrees very closely with that of *Nyroca brunnea*. The distribution of white on the face and throat is similar in the two birds, but less in extent in *A. erythrophthalma*. The whole plumage, especially the under surface, is more ferruginous, as is often the case in some specimens of Anatidæ. As in the male, the bill and legs are now pale. The two birds are of the same size, the wing in each case measuring about 8 inches.”

The principal difference between the type specimens of *A. erythrophthalma* and *N. brunnea* and *N. nationi* is the present pale colour of the bill and legs of the first, which no doubt is due to fading, as we learn from Wied's description that the *bill was plumbeous like the legs*.

After all this it seems extremely likely that the Brazilian *N. erythrophthalma* (Wied), the Peruvian *N. nationi*, and the African *N. brunnea* are one and the same species (which will have to stand under the name of *N. erythrophthalma*), common to South America and South Africa. The case would be similar to that of *Dendrocygna viduata* and *D. fulva*, which are also found on both these continents, the latter species extending even to India. Possibly *Nyroca erythrophthalma* is only a straggler to South America, unless we are to believe that the Ducks found very common near Arica and Mollendo by Mr. MacFarlane (*Ibis*, 1887, p. 203) really belong to *N. erythrophthalma*.

Turin, Zoological Museum, November 1895.

IX.—On the Birds of the Philippine Islands.—Part VI.*
The Vicinity of Cape Engaño, N.E. Luzon, Manila Bay, and Fuga Island, Babuyan Group. By W. R. OGILVIE GRANT. *With Field-Notes by JOHN WHITEHEAD.*

(Plate III.)

ON the 6th April, 1895, our indefatigable friend, Mr. Whitehead, started off once more for the north of Luzon, his

* For Part I. see *Ibis*, 1894, pp. 406-411; Part II. *ibid.* pp. 501-522; Part III. *Ibis*, 1895, pp. 106-117; Part IV. *ibid.* pp. 249-267; Part V. *ibid.* pp. 433-472.